

• WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information delivering system comprising:
 - a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for managing the copying machines by the use of a managing database accumulating therein management information on each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device includes
 - a delivery request receiving unit which receives a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information delivery client;
 - a specifying unit which specifies the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received by the delivery request receiving unit based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; and
 - a delivery information transmitting unit which transmits the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified by the specifying unit.
2. The information delivering system according to claim 1, wherein the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of a user who uses the copying machine, the delivery request receiving unit receives the delivery request including a delivery area

to which at least the delivery contents are delivered, and the specifying unit specifies the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted based on whether or not the installation position of each of the 5 copying machines or the location of the user who uses the copying machine accumulated in the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request.

3. The information delivering system according to claim 10 1, wherein the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines, the delivery request receiving unit receives the delivery request including an output type indicating whether at least the 15 delivery contents are output in color or monochrome, and the specifying unit compares the output type included in the delivery request with the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines accumulated in the managing database so as to specify the copying machine 20 to which the delivery information is to be transmitted.

4. The information delivering system according to claim 1, wherein the managing device further comprises a delivery information generating unit which collects the delivery 25 information to be delivered to each of the copying machines

• specified by the specifying unit per copying machine so as to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, the delivery information transmitting unit transmitting the delivery information generated by the delivery information generating unit to each of the copying machines specified by the specifying unit.

10 5. The information delivering system according to claim
4, wherein the managing device further comprises a delivery
information storing unit which stores therein the delivery
information for each of the copying machines generated by
the delivery information generating unit.

15 6. The information delivering system according to claim
1, wherein the managing device further comprises: an
estimation request receiving unit which receives a delivery
estimation request from the delivery client terminal; an
20 acquiring unit which acquires the number of copying machines
adapted to the estimation request received by the estimation
request receiving unit based on the management information
accumulated in the managing database; an approximating unit
which approximates a charge for the information delivery
25 based on the number of copying machines acquired by the

, acquiring unit; and a estimation result returning unit which returns an estimation result including the charge for the information delivery approximated by the approximating unit to the delivery client terminal.

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7. The information delivering system according to claim 1, wherein the managing device further comprises: an user attribute managing unit which registers and managing user attributes of the delivery client received from the copying machine; and a registration notifying unit which notifies the delivery client terminal that the user attributes are registered in the user attribute managing unit.

8. The information delivering system according to claim 1, wherein the copying machine prints the delivery information at the margin of the printing sheet when a document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

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9. The information delivering system according to claim 1, wherein the copying machine displays the delivery information on a console panel of the copying machine during a document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing

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device.

10. An information delivering system comprising:
 - a plurality of copying machines and a managing device
 - 5 for charging a user of each of the copying machines for a copying charge per predetermined period of time by the use of a managing database accumulating therein data relating to the number of copying sheets received by each of the copying machines together with management information for each of
 - 10 the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device includes

a delivery request receiving unit which receives a delivery request.

delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery.

15 Client terminal operated by an information delivery client;

a specifying unit which specifies the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received by the delivery request receiving unit based on the management information accumulated in the managing database;

20 a delivery information transmitting unit which transmits the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified by the specifying unit.

25 a delivery charge calculating unit which calculates a delivery charge to be charged to the delivery client; and

· a charging unit which charges the delivery charge
· calculated by the delivery charge calculating unit in
· addition to the copying charge based on data relating to
· the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing
5 database.

11. The information delivering system according to claim
10, wherein the delivery charge calculating unit calculates
the delivery charge based on a cumulative value of points
10 corresponding to the type or printing portion of a printing
sheet, on which the delivery contents are printed by the
copying machine.

12. The information delivering system according to claim
15 10, wherein the delivery charge calculating unit discounts
the copying charge in response to the number of output times
including the delivery information by the copying machine.

13. The information delivering system according to claim
20 10, wherein the charging unit transmits the copying charge
and the delivery charge to a server of a card company with
which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client
contract, and the card company charges the user of the copying
machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and
25 the delivery charge received from the managing device,

respectively.

14. The information delivering system according to claim 10, wherein the managing device further comprises: a bar 5 code applying unit which applies a bar code to the delivery request upon receipt of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal by the delivery request receiving unit; and a bar code discounting unit which discounts the copying charge by the copying machine possessed by the user 10 upon receipt of predetermined bar code information from the copying machine or a POS terminal of the delivery client and identification information of the user possessing the copying machine.

15 15. The information delivering system according to claim 14, wherein the managing device further comprises a delivery effect managing unit which manages the delivery effect of the delivery request based on the predetermined bar code information received from the copying machine or the POS 20 terminal of the delivery client and the identification information of the user of the copying machine.

16. The information delivering system according to claim 10, wherein the managing device further comprises: an user 25 attribute managing unit which registers and managing user

1 attributes of the delivery client received from the copying
2 machine; and a registration notifying unit which notifies
3 the delivery client terminal that the user attributes are
4 registered in the user attribute managing unit.

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17. The information delivering system according to claim
10, wherein the copying machine prints the delivery
information at the margin of the printing sheet when a
document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where
10 the copying machine receives the delivery information from
the managing device.

18. The information delivering system according to claim
10, wherein the copying machine displays the delivery
15 information on a console panel of the copying machine during
a document copying operation in the case where the copying
machine receives the delivery information from the managing
device.

20 19. An information delivering method in an information
delivering system which includes a plurality of copying
machines and a managing device for managing the copying
machines by the use of a managing database accumulating
therein management information on each of the copying
25 machines and outputs delivery information delivered from

the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device performs:

a delivery request receiving step of receiving a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information delivery client;

a specifying step of specifying the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received in the delivery request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; and

10 a delivery information transmitting step of transmitting the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified in the specifying step.

15 20. The information delivering method according to claim 19, wherein the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of a user who uses the copying machine, the delivery request including 20 a delivery area to which at least the delivery contents are delivered is received in the delivery request receiving step, and the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted is specified in the specifying step based on whether or not the installation position of each 25 of the copying machines or the location of the user who uses

the copying machine accumulated in the managing database
ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request.

21. The information delivering method according to claim
5 19, wherein the managing database accumulates therein, as
the management information, the type of component parts
constituting each of the copying machines, the delivery
request including an output type indicating whether at least
the delivery contents are output in color or monochrome is
10 received in the delivery request receiving step, and the
output type included in the delivery request is compared
with the type of component parts constituting each of the
copying machines accumulated in the managing database so
as to specify the copying machine to which the delivery
15 information is to be transmitted in the specifying step.

22. The information delivering method according to claim
19, wherein the managing device further performs a delivery
information generating step of collecting the delivery
20 information to be delivered to each of the copying machines
specified in the specifying step per copying machine so as
to generate the delivery information for each of the copying
machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the
plurality of delivery client terminals, and the delivery
25 information generated in the delivery information

generating step is transmitted to each of the copying machines specified in the specifying step in the delivery information transmitting step.

5 23. The information delivering method according to claim
22, wherein the managing device further performs a delivery
information storing step of storing therein the delivery
information for each of the copying machines generated in
the delivery information generating step.

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24. The information delivering method according to claim
19, wherein the managing device further performs: an
estimation request receiving step of receiving a delivery
estimation request from the delivery client terminal; an
15 acquiring step of acquiring the number of copying machines
adapted to the estimation request received in the estimation
request receiving step based on the management information
accumulated in the managing database; an approximating step
of approximating a charge for the information delivery based
20 on the number of copying machines acquired in the acquiring
step; and an estimation result returning step of returning
an estimation result including the charge for the information
delivery approximated in the approximating step to the
delivery client terminal.

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25. The information delivering method according to claim
19, wherein the managing device further performs: a user
attribute managing step of registering and managing user
attributes of the delivery client received from the copying
5 machine; and a registration notifying step of notifying the
delivery client terminal that the user attributes are
registered in the user attribute managing step.

26. The information delivering method according to claim
10 19, wherein the copying machine prints the delivery
information at the margin of the printing sheet when a
document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where
the copying machine receives the delivery information from
the managing device.

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27. The information delivering method according to claim
19, wherein the copying machine displays the delivery
information on a console panel of the copying machine during
a document copying operation in the case where the copying
20 machine receives the delivery information from the managing
device.

28. An information delivering method in an information
delivering system which includes a plurality of copying
25 machines and a managing device for charging a user of each

of the copying machines for a copying charge per predetermined period of time by the use of a managing database accumulating therein data relating to the number of copying sheets received by each of the copying machines together with management information for each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device performs:

10 a delivery request receiving step of receiving a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information delivery client;

15 a specifying step of specifying the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received in the delivery request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database;

a delivery information transmitting step of transmitting the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified in the specifying step;

20 a delivery charge calculating step of calculating a delivery charge to be charged to the delivery client; and

a charging step of charging the delivery charge calculated in the delivery charge calculating step in addition to the copying charge based on data relating to 25 the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing

database.

29. The information delivering method according to claim 28, wherein the delivery charge is calculated in the delivery charge calculating step based on a cumulative value of points corresponding to the type or printing portion of a printing sheet, on which the delivery contents are printed by the copying machine.

10 30. The information delivering method according to claim 28, wherein the copying charge is discounted in the delivery charge calculating step in response to the number of output times including the delivery information by the copying machine.

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31. The information delivering method according to claim 28, wherein the copying charge and the delivery charge are transmitted to a server of a card company, with which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client contract, 20 in the charging step, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the delivery charge received from the managing device, respectively.

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1 32. The information delivering method according to claim
2 28, wherein the managing device further performs: a bar code
3 applying step of applying a bar code to the delivery request
4 upon receipt of the delivery request from the delivery client
5 terminal in the delivery request receiving step; and a bar
6 code discounting step of discounting the copying charge by
7 the copying machine possessed by the user upon receipt of
8 predetermined bar code information from the copying machine
9 or a POS terminal of the delivery client and identification
10 information of the user possessing the copying machine.

1 33. The information delivering method according to claim
2 32, wherein the managing device further performs a delivery
3 effect managing step of managing the delivery effect of the
4 delivery request based on the predetermined bar code
5 information received from the copying machine or the POS
6 terminal of the delivery client and the identification
7 information of the user of the copying machine.

20 34. The information delivering method according to claim
21 28, wherein the managing device further performs: a user
22 attribute managing step of registering and managing user
23 attributes of the delivery client received from the copying
24 machine; and a registration notifying step of notifying the
25 delivery client terminal that the user attributes are

registered in the user attribute managing step.

35. The information delivering method according to claim 28, wherein the copying machine prints the delivery information at the margin of the printing sheet when a document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

10 36. The information delivering method according to claim 28, wherein the copying machine displays the delivery information on a console panel of the copying machine during a document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing 15 device.

37. A computer program for realizing an information delivering method in an information delivering system which includes a plurality of copying machines and a managing 20 device for managing the copying machines by the use of a managing database accumulating therein management information on each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device performs:
25 a delivery request receiving step of receiving a

1 delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery
2 client terminal operated by an information delivery client;
3 a specifying step of specifying the copying machine
4 adapted to the delivery request received in the delivery
5 request receiving step based on the management information
6 accumulated in the managing database; and
7 a delivery information transmitting step of
8 transmitting the delivery information requested to be
9 delivered to the copying machine specified in the specifying
10 step.

38. A computer program for realizing an information delivering method in an information delivering system which includes a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for charging a user of each of the copying machines for a copying charge per predetermined period of time by the use of a managing database accumulating therein data relating to the number of copying sheets received by each of the copying machines together with management information 15 for each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device performs: 20 a delivery request receiving step of receiving a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information delivery client; 25

a specifying step of specifying the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received in the delivery request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database;

5 a delivery information transmitting step of
transmitting the delivery information requested to be
delivered to the copying machine specified in the specifying
step;

a delivery charge calculating step of calculating a delivery charge to be charged to the delivery client; and

a charging step of charging the delivery charge calculated in the delivery charge calculating step in addition to the copying charge based on data relating to the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing